

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

The following statements were made by a Soviet education official.

1. Historical and dialectical materialism plays a leading role in subject matter in Soviet schools. The outline of the importance of historical and dialectical materialism is first laid down in the Pioneers in a very abbreviated form. Further instruction is given in the Komsomol, elementary schools, intermediate schools, and the universities. Emphasis on the subject becomes greater in the higher grades. 25X1
2. Intermediate education is generally a prerequisite for higher education. However, where the individual lacks intermediate education and has a clear-cut aptitude, efforts are made to have him reach a basic level as soon as possible and to have him admitted to a school of higher learning.
3. The main language in schools is Russian, but every effort is made to allow the student to study in his own language.
4. The average age for students entering schools of higher learning is generally about 18 or 19, and the average age for students finishing these schools is 24 or 25.
5. On first being called up for military service, students serve only five or six months. Upon completion of their education, students must finish their military service. There is no general exemption from duty. Student officers must serve three or four months in refresher courses, but not every year.
6. The student is free to choose his own field of work but is compelled to appear before a commission which helps him in his selection.
7. About half of the students are married.¹ There are no obstacles to students' marrying, but there is a tendency for students to wait until they have completed their studies. Relations between boys and girls in schools are completely free and are subject to no meddling by the authorities.

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8. Elementary courses consist of four lectures of 45 minutes each per day. Advanced courses consist of five lectures of 45 minutes each. There are about two and a half hours of homework daily. A great deal of time is devoted to physical education. Textbooks are provided by the State.
9. Individuals are free to study theology, but no State support is offered for the study. There are a number of seminaries, but these are of no great importance.
10. Psychological testing has been condemned as unscientific in the USSR.

1. Comment: Presumably this refers to students in schools of higher learning.

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